## UTAH CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM

### WATER QUALITY CHECKLIST

**Place an "X" in the box next to each question if you can answer yes. Put N/A for any questions that are not applicable to your operation.**

☐ 1. Do you have **Field Specific Records** of Nutrient Management Activities for the **past 2 years**?
On fields where nutrients have been applied this documentation includes (If nutrients have not been applied on any field then put N/A in Questions 1 to 8 and go to Question 9):

- Field Specific Nutrient Management Information
  - crops and yields
  - planting and harvest dates
  - commercial fertilizer and manure applications (including rates, timing, nutrient content, and method of application and incorporation)
- Additional requirements if you have livestock manure:
  - actual or estimated quantity of manure and other organic products produced annually
  - acres needed and available for nitrogen and phosphorus based manure applications (can be found in your CNMP)
  - manure removed from system for feeding, bedding, energy production or export from the operation

☐ 2. Do you have current **soil test results** for some or all fields where nutrients were applied?

- no older than 5 years
- phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) at a minimum
- from a laboratory successfully meeting the requirements and performance standards of the NAPT-PAP Program http://www.napt-pap.org/
  - If not, future soil tests must be sent to a NAPT-PAP lab.

☐ **3.** Do you have current **manure test results** from each manure source?

- no older than 1 year or determined to be representative from long term sampling
- analyzed for total N, $P_2O_5$ and $K_2O$ at a minimum

☐ **4.** Have you determined **realistic yield goals**?

- Take yields for the last five years, drop the lowest yield, and average the four remaining yields.

☐ **5.** Do you **base** Crop N, $P_2O_5$ and $K_2O$ fertilizer and/or manure **application rates on Utah State University Guidelines, soil test recommendations, or nutrient uptake tables?**

- records must show that application rates are within USU guidelines, soil test recommendations, or nutrient uptake values or if manure is applied, calibration records must show that the manure is being applied at the lowest acceptable rate possible

☐ 6. Do you **calibrate** your manure **application equipment** based on manure type?

☐ **7.** Have you identified **areas sensitive** to nutrient applications and are using **appropriate setbacks**?

- streams, lakes, drinking water wells, wetlands
- coarse textured soils, frequently flooded soils, shallow water table and bedrock areas, field drains, proximity to densely populated areas

☐ **8.** Have you implemented applicable **Manure Best Management Practices?**

- Manure **applications** are **based on crop $P_2O_5$ uptake** where Soil Test Phosphorus (STP) **levels are greater than 50 ppm** Olsen or is not applied.
- Manure **applications** are **based on 50% $P_2O_5$ uptake** on fields with **STP greater than 100 ppm** Olsen or are not made.
- Manure **applications are made** on fields **where phosphorus levels are below 50 ppm STP** when available.
- Manure is **not applied on the same fields every year** if STP levels are over 50 ppm.
- Manure is **not applied in setback areas** as determined by the Utah Manure Application Risk Index. Liquid manure applications do not exceed the water holding capacity of the soil.
- Manure is **not applied to ground that is frozen, snow-covered, or actively thawing** on fields with a medium or high risk according to the Utah Manure Application Risk Index. Contact NRCS for assistance.

☐ **9.** Are you following an **Irrigation Water Management** Plan? (If none of your fields are irrigated then put N/A in Questions 9 to 11 and go to Question 12):

- Index value of 50 must be achieved according to the CSP IWM Enhancement Index
- Records must include dates and amounts of water applied relative to the crop growth stage
- Irrigation system is maintained and repaired on an annual basis

☐ 10. Is **irrigation induced erosion controlled** on fields in corn or other annual crops?

☐ 11. Is irrigation runoff on flood irrigated fields causing **discernable erosion at the end of the field** or where water discharges from the field?

☐ 12. Do you have detailed **Field Specific Records** of Pest Management Activities for the **past 2 years**?

On fields where pesticides have been applied this documentation includes (If pesticides have not been applied on any fields then enter N/A on Questions 12 to 15 and go to Question 16):

- crop, identified pest problem (scouting), and economic threshold
- method of control and date applied
- if pesticides were used, pesticide brand name, EPA registration number, active ingredient and rates applied

☐ 13. Do you store, handle, transport, mix, and dispose of all pesticides, pesticide containers, unused pesticides and rinsate in accordance with **state law and safe handling procedures**?

This includes the following:

- Approved anti-back siphoning devices in place when using wells and other water supplies to fill application equipment
- Setbacks from sensitive areas maintained when mixing or loading pesticides or cleaning application equipment. Setbacks should be at least 100 feet.
- Compliance with worker protection standards

☐ 14. Have you identified **areas or features sensitive** to pesticide applications?

Those areas or features include:

- shallow soils over water tables and fractured bedrock
- coarse textured soils and other soils with a high NRCS pesticide leaching or runoff rating
- wells, surface waters such as rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, or reservoirs
- public areas such as schools, public buildings, etc.
- land within a Source Water Protection area

☐ 15. Have you conducted an **environmental assessment** to evaluate the potential impact of your pesticide applications (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc.) and have you implemented mitigation practices when applicable (Intermediate, High or Extra High hazard ratings)?

- Mitigation practices include one or more of the following:
  a) using low end of label rate ranges
  b) timing of applications to reduce potential for movement in runoff or leaching
  c) band applications, spot treatment or variable rate applications where appropriate
  d) using companion crops, cover crops and crops residues, when appropriate, to suppress weed growth
  e) using crop cultivation and shallow tillage operations to control annual and biennial weed seedlings
  f) installing additional erosion and runoff control measures to minimize off-site movement of applied pesticides
  g) establishing vegetated buffer areas which separate normal crop production practices from sensitive features such as sinkholes, wells, streams, lakes, and waterways
  h) harvesting alfalfa early to eliminate need for pesticide application
  i) use of alternative pesticides with lower risk hazard ratings

**Questions 16 thru 19 are applicable to dry cropland only**

☐ **16.** Are you using a **no-till or mulch-till** system**?** (If none of your fields are in drycropland then put N/A in Questions 16 to 19):

- system should leave at least 30% cover after planting
- a moldboard plow cannot be used

☐ **17.** Is wind erosion and sheet and rill **erosion controlled**?

- on each field, practices such as strip cropping, residue management, and/or buffer strips are in place as applicable

☐ **18.** Are you using a **conservation crop rotation** that includes high residue crops (wheat or barley) once in 2 years, applying mulch, and/or have hay/pasture in the rotation?

☐ **19.** Have you **stabilized or treated ephemeral or classic gullies** on your operation?

- on each field, practices such as terraces, residue management, grassed waterways and/or sediment control basins (check dams) are in place as applicable

**If you have answered YES to all of the above, please provide records with the appropriate information from the past 2 years. If you answered NO to any questions you may not be eligible for CSP at this time.**

**For additional details on conservation practice standards consult the following references available on-line in the NRCS eFOTG at:**

http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx?Fips=49049&MenuName=menuUT.zip

- NRCS-Utah Conservation Practice Standards "Conservation Crop Rotation" (Code 328), "Nutrient Management" (Code 590), "Waste Utilization" (Code 633), "Pest Management" (Code 595), "Irrigation Water Management" (449), "Residue Management" (Code 329), "Terraces" (Code 600), "Grassed Waterways" (Code 412), "Sediment Control Basins" (Code 350), and "Water & Sediment Control Basins" (Code 638)